

PENNGROVE SOCIAL FIREMEN

GAZETTE



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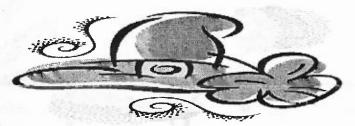
MARCH 2012

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

SUNDAY

MARCH 4, 2012 SERVED FROM

1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.



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Adults \$ 12.50 @ Children (Under 12 \$ 5.00) GAMES - MUSIC - BEVERAGE - FUN - RAFFLE

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Regular Meeting March 7, 2012 Penngrove Clubhouse

Larry" Hop Sing" Wagner, Head Chef



New and Exiting Special Chinese Dinner HELP ON CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE Help Always Welcome:

CALL STAN @ 707-585-1401

Directors Meeting

March 12, 2012 • 7:00 p.m. 7850 Davis Lane Penngrove, CA 94951

Penngrove Social Firemen Membership Meeting February 1, 2012

President Ray Soper called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Leading us in the salute to the flag was Steve, a guest of Jim Kelly Directors in attendance were: Ray Soper, Dean DeGraffenreid, Joe Turner, Kim Hanson, John Rossi, Bill Park and Speed Meesenberg. Absent Directors were Scott Thurston and Stan Pronzini.

Good of the Order: Harold Fish and Dorothy Jacobsen passed away. President Ray asked for a minute of silence for the two. The Social Firemen gave a gift to "Becoming Independent" in memory of Judy Turner and a Thank You card was received from the Turner Family.

Guests: Steve and Caroline guests of Jim Kelly.

President Ray received 4 new Social Firemen Applicants. Dan Pardini, born/reared in Petaluma lives in Cotati. Sponsored by Kim Hanson and Larry Wagner. Pam Rossi wife of John Rossi sponsored by John Rossi and Ray Soper. Eddie Amato, lives in Petaluma, is an Iraq Veteran. Sponsored by Kim Hanson and Larry Wagner. Debbie Passanisi who lives in Windsor and sponsored by John Rossi and Ray Soper.

Dean DeGraffenried chairperson of the Italian Night Fundraiser said the affair was sold out and was a big success. The profit was approximately \$3072.00. Dean thanked everyone that helped and the Penngrove 4-H for helping with descrt. It was noted that we would send the 4-H a \$100.00 donation.

President Ray stated under New Business that the February Crab feed is SOLD OUT!!! The Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed is coming up on March 4, 2012 from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. The "Hot Rods & Bar BQ is July 28, 2012. Pres. Ray mentioned the beautiful customized gas pump on the stage that John Rossi refinished and will be raffled off at the car show in July. Ticket are \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$25.00. Ray said there were over 105 cars at last year's show and that we are expecting 150 this year.

Pres. Ray said that Mack's Bar will be organizing a fundraiser gold tournament for one of our members, Jimmy Ferina, to help with some of his medical expenses. It was moved, second and passed for the Social Firemen to donate \$500.00 for 1st place at golf tournament and \$100.00 to sponsor a hole.

Pres Ray stated that the Montgomery Village Lion's Club will be helping cook breakfast at our clubhouse on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 12:00pm. The cost is \$7.00 for Adults and \$3.50 children 12 & under. All proceeds will go to Penngrove School. The cost of the breakfast will be paid for by the Social Firemen.

Correction on Corn Beef and Cabbage Posters for price. The price per person should have read \$12.50 not \$15.00.

Pres. Ray asked for corrections and admissions to January minutes. Hearing none they were approved as printed.

In the absence of Treasure, Scott Thurston, Joe Turner gave the Treasurer's Report. As of February 1, 2012: General Account \$14,228.73, Petty Cash \$450.00 and Savings \$39,290.47 for a Total of \$53,969.20.

Chairman of the Crab Feed, Roland Mellor, stated that the crab price per pound at present is \$5.50. That price will not be locked in until next week. So Roland is cutting back expenses by asking for volunteer bar tenders. Also Roland needs servers and clean up people. Barbara and Joe Perry volunteered for bar tenders. A list for volunteers was made at Director's table as members stood in line for tonight's dinner.

There was a discussion on elimination of our Annual Rummage Sale. Directors will follow up on this.

Good of the Order

Harry Yamashiro passed away. Harry was our far away member from Hawaii. For years he came to help on our July celebration, he was a good friend of Cliff Orr and Buddy Jensen. Our condolences to Harry's family.

Larry Wagner and his crew were thanked for cooking tonight's dinner. Larry also volunteered to cook again for March dinner. Thank you Larry.

There was over \$200.00 in tonight's 50/50 raffle sold. We had 3 happy winners who all gave the winnings back to the organization. Also 2 Corn Beef & Cabbage tickets were given out as part of this raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

There was one more comment. Joe Perry said the acoustics are bad in this hall and he may know someone who may give us some idea to remedy this. Pres. Ray asked Joe to follow thru with this and report back to the Directors.

Penngrove Social Fireman Director's Meeting February 6, 2012

President Ray Soper opened meeting up at 7:00 pm. The following persons attended: Directors and Officers- Bill Park, John Rossi, Ray Soper, Kim Hanson, Scott Thurston, Joe Turner, Speed Messenberg missing Vice President Dean DeGraffenreid and Director Stanley Pronzini. Other people attending: Fence worker Mike Thurman, Park Rental Chairman Al Davison and Rancho Adobe Fire Department Chief Frank Treanor.

President Ray asked Chief Treanor to speak first. Chief Treanor gave the Directors and Officers an overview of the upcoming problems he will be facing in the near future.

President Ray asked Chief Treanor to write a column for the Gazette Paper and President Ray will print them in the March Gazette (for the Chiefs requests and requirements). There was a motion that the Penngrove Social Firemen offer the Social Hall at a low cost fee for the Rancho Adobe Firemen to hold fund raisers programs or the like. The motion was seconded and passed. (This motion includes use of the hall more than once)

There was discussion on deleting our yearly rummage sale Moved, seconded and passed that the Social Firemen rent the Social Hall to Steve Phillips for a discounted price on May 5, 2012. This is for a rummage sale.

Some customers complained about the Italian Night Dinner. Times to eat were different on tickets than the posters. There was discussion on the Pedro Tournament that preceded the dinner. Some Pedro players did not eat dinner and there were some other minor complaints. Moved, seconded and passed to discontinue having the Pedro Tournament before the Italian Night Dinner.

President Ray asked Mike Thurman about fencing at the Park and the Social Hall. Mike wanted to know who was digging fence post holes. President Ray informed Mike to call Don Barella, also Mike wanted to know about power. President Ray said Nick Bursio will supply a generator. Mike asked about who will remove shrubs on property line between Church & Social Firemen Property. Joe Turner & Bill Park will talk to church council member about that.

Discussion on the upcoming Car show on July 28, 2012, President Ray, John Rossi and wife Pam are making arraignments to make sure things go right for this show.

It was moved, seconded and passed for any person or organization storing material other than Social Firemen Stuff shall pay \$75.00 per day fee.

It was moved, seconded and passed for any renter not having their stuff out of the Park on the last day their rent was paid shall pay \$75.00 per day after 8 AM. of the next day or pay a full days rent if large amounts of stuff are left

Discussion on existing kitchen removal or being rebuilt was held. Scott Thurston will talk to Tony Medeiros on this for a final discussion. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.



Penngrove Social Firemen



In keeping with our motto "Serving Our Community" we make an attempt every year to benefit our local Penngrove Elementary School. Former President, Joe Reiter had put this on the "to do list" several years ago. Member Don Barella works as the contact person to make sure the presentation isdone in order. The Social Firemen in tandem with Montgomery Village Lions will cook a pancake breakfast. Social Firemen will pick up the cost of product the lions will help cook. Bottom Line; 100% of income will go towards the school.

April 21, 2012

Penngrove Clubhouse Woodward Ave., Penngrove, CA

Served From 8:30a.m. to 12:00p.m.



By Lyndi Brown

Adults: \$7.00

Kids (Under 12)

\$3.50

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage

Juice or Milk and Coffee

New Owners at Caprara's



Penngrove residents Joanna and Jeff Keeler became new owners of Caprara's Pizzeria last August, and are still cooking up good Italian, pizza, meatballs and burgers at the downtown location.

They relocated from the East Bay to North Carolina and back, but this time to Penngrove to be near Jeff's mother, Patricia Guthrie. Their fourth and fifth grade sons (Miles and Mitchel) are at Penngrove Elementary, and everyone owns dachshunds, thanks to Patricia's serious hobby, breeding the pups.

It was a big leap of faith to commit to a restaurant, but Jeff has always wanted to own his own business. He comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Julie's career has been a paralegal.

You'll see faces of the same staff, including "Bishi" Caprrara, a veteran since the age of eight. Stop in and get to know the friendly new owners, and order up so great food!



Presidents Message

We are off to a good start for 2012. Our Italian night was a sell out and generated \$ 2900.00. The Crab Feed is a sellout. Next, the Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed on March 4, 2012, we are hoping for 300 tickets to be sold, which would be a sellout. The chairperson's; Dean DeGraffenreid, Italian Night, Roland Mellor, Crab Feed and Stan Pronzini, Corned Beef, without their dedication, their crews and our members we would not have the success we have had.

Keep in mind we provide Penngrove Park and Penngrove Community Clubhouse for all to enjoy and use. The cost to maintain and operate these facilities cost the organization \$4400.00 per month. We receive revenue through rentals of the facilities, but falls short of covering our operating expenses. We have dues, monthly dinners and fundraisers to fill the gap. Fortunately we generate enough money to make improvements on these facilities.

Who benefits? Penngrove 4-H is able to hold their monthly meetings at no cost, Penngrove School, election polling place, Rancho Adobe Fire Fighters Assoc., public meetings, Boy Scouts and other community events. We should all be *very proud* that we are able to provide these services at no cost to taxpayers. We are unique verses other incorporated and non-incorporated communities throughout Sonoma County, we work and pay for what we provide. This dedication does not go unnoticed. An example is the Swiss Club, which will donate \$ 500.00 from their funds to help us upgrade the kitchen in the park.

As your President this year, I think the Board of Directors and membership provide all of us with affordable dinners every month so we can enjoy a night out for \$10.00 per person and receive a quality product. We are averaging 65 members and guests per month which is outstanding. Please try to remember the founding families in 1952 that were dedicated people and set the foundation for our principles today.

Being a member of Penngrove Social Firemen is a prestigious honor that is not surpassed by any other in Sonoma County.

Occasionally we hear "what's in it for me paying \$50.00 a year?" or "How come I don't get a free dinner or drinks?" You do get a discount on renting the clubhouse, our prices for meals are more than fair and you help provide a Park and Community Center for the community.

If you are looking for free drinks, free meals or slashed rental fees on the Park, you won't find it here. We still live by our motto "Serving Our Community" and work hard to pay our overhead just like the founding families did in the early 1950's. I am pleased to report folks that expect the previous mentioned are extremely rare and generally don't last long as members.

Respectfully,

Ray Soper, President

THE COST OF FIRE PROTECTION



By Chief Frank Treasor

When I became Chief at Rancho Adobe Fire District on January 1, 2006 there were challenges to overcome. These challenges included keeping your three fire stations staffed 24/7/365, an unfunded liability with PERS, 30 year old fire apparatus needing replacement, needed capital improvements (roof replacement), and saving money for an apparatus amortization program, which is paying for apparatus using a systematic savings plan.

The economy at that time was much better than it is today.

Working together

In a spirit of working together with the staff, we set out to tackle these challenges.

The unfunded liability for safety personnel was discussed with the Board of Directors and they wisely voted to pay it off and save a substantial interest charge each year. This was done during a time when we could replace most of the funds that were used.

The pension plan at the RAFD is 2% at 50 this is 33% less than those plans we read about in the news. The system is now fully funded and is pay as you go.

Next, using a creative and cooperative staffing model, we were able to continue operating all three fire stations 24/7 keeping response quickly available in each of the three

areas of our District, should you need medical or fire response. The advantage of having three fire stations with trained crews responding to a fire incident also supports safety and efficiency for the crews and the citizens.

In an effort to address the aging fire apparatus problem, we placed a bond measure on the ballot in 2007. The measure missed the required 66 2/3% by just 2 %. The District was left with 30 year old apparatus some of which did not meet current safety standards. There was also the deferred capital improvements needed to maintain the stations. We set out to remedy the apparatus problem and replace the roof at Penngrove station. We wrote specifications for engines and water tenders. The water tenders are 2000 gallon tankers that bring water to places in the District where there are no hydrants. The fire service models cost \$252,000 each and we needed to replace two of them. I asked if we could write the specs for construction style water tankers with all the approved safety equipment required by the NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association) but without all the fire service bells and whistles. We were able to get these tankers for \$126,500 each so we effectively got two for the price of one. One of the tankers is pictured with this article. In order to replace the tenders and the old engines we needed to take a loan, which the District obtained: however the payment comes out of money that the District was trying to put aside for future fire engine purchases, adversely impacting amortization program we were trying to establish.

The Board elected to sell two cell phone leases and use some of the money for the new roof on Station 2 and place the remainder into reserves. These reserves are used to fund the District operations during the "dry period," which is the time between the April and

December infusions of tax revenue and this saves the District interest since we are not required to borrow money to fund these operations. These reserves are quickly being depleted, however, as you will see below.

Redevelopment Agency Funds (RDA)

Before the elimination of RDAs, the District was mandated under state RDA law to send some of our revenue to RDA. The District's portion of this is \$140,000 of your tax revenue that we cannot use.

Perhaps you have noticed the peeling and twisted lap siding on our Cotati station #1. The siding needs to be replaced with a more durable and weather resistant material. This fire station is in redevelopment area #10 and certainly fits the definition of "blight" in my opinion, therefore I asked the Cotati RDA to provide \$50,000 to replace this siding. After a year of writing letters and being ignored, the RDA decided to deny this request.

Now that RDA has been eliminated we will get some portion of this money back but the RDA's have run up so much debt and expenses that it will take several years to begin to realize a significant amount of this revenue.

Grants

The District has been able to obtain more than \$350,000 in grant money to purchase new turnout gear and a new live fire training trailer at our Station 2. These grants are obtained through the tireless work of the District in stretching your tax dollars. We could not afford these purchases without the grants.

Now and in the Future

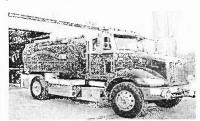
Working together, we have been able to cut the budget for goods and services we use by 25% and maintained wages and benefits as low as humanly possible. We worked with our employee group

to restructure our health care plan, saving the District \$73,000 in the first year. We have also instituted various fees to try to offset some of the deficit. We believe we can obtain further reductions in our property and casualty insurance for next year.

What we have been experiencing for the last two years is that our revenue from property taxes is decreasing as property values decline, while our expenses remain flat after the above 25% reduction. We have cut as much as we can without impacting response services. Our deficit over the last two years has been about \$250,000 per year. This is causing us to have to rely on reserves to balance the budget and keep the doors open 24/7. Maintaining reserves is important because when these funds are gone, the District will be unable to deliver services at acceptable levels. At our current rate, these reserves may not last through the next fiscal year.

The trend in declining revenues and the use of reserve funds will leave the District with only two alternatives once the reserve funds are depleted. The first option would be to ask for an increase in the current special tax to increase revenue. The District is currently studying an increase that would allow us to balance our budget and save for new fire apparatus. The second alternative would be to start cutting services including staffing levels and station closures, which will increase response time when every second counts.

The members of the Rancho Adobe Fire are proud to serve the district and look forward to being there in your time of need.



This is one of our 2000 gallon Water-tenders that we were able to purchase for half the price by rewriting the specifications.

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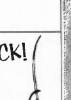
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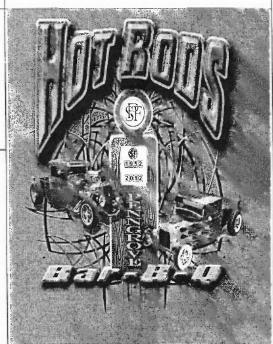
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